

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:
accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in ~~end of~~ each of a plurality of treatment strands;
creating ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of treatment strands according to said tissue treatment plan;
and
wherein at least ~~[[any]]~~ two of the plurality of treatment strands have a custom distal end spacing between the end of each treatment strand and the adjacent treatment seed.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
said step of creating the plurality of ~~at least one~~ treatment strands is performed by positioning radioactive seeds in a mold and pouring into the mold a material to mold the radioactive seeds in place.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein:
said material that is poured is bio-absorbable.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein:
said material that is poured is a polymer.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
aligning ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of treatment strands in a template.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein all of the plurality of treatment strands are the same length.

7. (Currently amended) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:
first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, ~~which said~~ treatment plan specif[[ies]]ing a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands to be provided in each of a plurality of seed strands;
second creating [[a]] the plurality of treatment seed strands by molding said treatment seeds in a material; and
third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said first accepting step further comprises accept[[s]]ing a tissue treatment plan created with the use of a computer program.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said first accepting step further comprises accept[[s]]ing a treatment plan that specifies radioactive seeds and ~~optimal~~ a desired spacing[[s]] between each pair of the radioactive seeds; and
wherein said second creating step further comprises creat[[es]]ing the plurality of treatment seed strands to the specified ~~optimal~~ desired spacings ~~prescribed~~.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said second creating step is performed by positioning radioactive seeds in a mold at the ~~optimal~~ desired spac[[es]]ings and pouring in a material to mold with the plurality of radioactive seeds in place in the desired spacings.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein:
said material that is poured is bio-absorbable.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein:

said material that is poured in is a polymer.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein:

said first accepting step further comprises using ~~uses a~~ the tissue treatment plan wherein
the tissue treatment plan is created using an imaging device.

14. (Currently amended) A therapeutic device comprising:

a plurality of seed strands, each having a length with a distal end;

a plurality of seeds provided along the length of each of the seed strands;

the plurality of seeds being provided at spaced intervals along the length of each of
the seed strands; and

[[a]] custom end ~~space~~ spacings according to a treatment plan provided between the
seed located adjacent to the distal end of each of said seed strands and the distal end of each said
[[the]] seed strand.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The device in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

~~a plurality of seed strands,~~ at least two of ~~which have~~ said plurality of seed strands have
different custom end spacings of different lengths.

17. (Currently amended) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan
specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in the treatment plan and which
specifies custom end spacings between an end seed in a strand and the end of the strand;
and

creating a ~~at least one of~~ treatment strand according to the plan.

18. (Currently amended) A method of treating a patient with a plurality of treatment strands

wherein each of said plurality of treatment strands has a plurality of spaced seeds ~~in the strand~~ and custom end spacings between ~~[[the]]~~ a distal end seed in the strand and ~~[[the]]~~ a distal end of the seed strand, the method comprising the steps of:
implanting ~~[[the]]~~ a first strand at ~~[[the]]~~ a desired location ~~and to~~ at a depth; and
implanting the remainder of the plurality of seed strands at a plurality of respective desired locations ~~according to each strand~~ to the depth of the first strand.

19. (New) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;

second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material; and

third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands.

20. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein at least two treatment seed strands have custom end spacings of different lengths.

21. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein said third providing step provides different custom distal end spacings for at least two of said plurality of treatment seed strands.

22. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein said third providing step provides different custom distal end spacings for one of said plurality of treatment seed strands.

23. (New) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;

second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material; and

third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands, wherein at least two of said plurality of treatment seed strands have different custom end spacing.

24. (New) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;

second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material; and

third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands, wherein the custom distal end spacing is determined by the treatment plan, and the custom distal end spacing allows a health care professional to insert each of the plurality of treatment seed strands to a uniform depth in the tissue to be treated.

25. (New) A method of treating a patient with a plurality of treatment strands wherein each of said plurality of treatment strands has a plurality of spaced seeds and a custom end spacing between a distal end seed of the treatment strand and a distal end of the treatment strand, the method comprising the steps of:

implanting a first treatment strand at a desired location at a depth; and

implanting the remainder of the plurality of treatment strands at a plurality of respective desired locations to the depth of the first strand, wherein each distal end seed of each of said plurality of treatment strands can be at a different depth.

26. (New) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in each of a plurality of treatment strands;

creating the plurality of treatment strands according to said tissue treatment plan by positioning treatment seeds in a mold and pouring into the mold a material to mold the treatment seeds in place; and

wherein at least two of the plurality of treatment seeds have a custom distal end spacing between the end of each treatment strand and the adjacent treatment seed.

27. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein:

said material that is poured is bio-absorbable.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein:

said material that is poured is a polymer.

29. (New) A therapeutic device comprising:

a plurality of seed strands, each having a length with a distal end;

a plurality of seeds provided along the length of each of the seeds strands;

the plurality of seeds being provided at spaced intervals along the length of each of the seed strands; and

custom end spacings according to a treatment plan provided between the seed located adjacent to the distal end of each of said seed strands and the distal end of each said seed strand, wherein at least two of said plurality of seed strands have different said custom end spacings of different lengths.